

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3514
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
INDIA WATER VISION
Yadav Shri Baleshwar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of India Water Vision Document- 2025 prepared by the India Water Partnership (IWP) during 1998-2000 alongwith recommendations made therein;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the suggestions made by UNO, World Bank, UNESCO with regard to management of water resources and preparation of far- reaching effective programmes; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) The salient features and recommendations of the India Water Vision Document – 2025 is enclosed as Annex – I.

(b) & (c) No specific suggestions on water management have been received from the UNO, World Bank and UNESCO in the Ministry of Water Resources. However, important issues highlighted by these organizations at various fora and through publications etc. are examined from time to time and appropriate actions are taken. In general, such issues have been addressed in the National Water Policy.

ANNEX – I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3514 FOR ANSWER ON 18.4.2005

INDIA WATER VISION – 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The study presents a comprehensive report on the various processes involved in the development of India Water Vision 2025, and is based on a number of national and zonal level discussions and meetings. The participants in these discussions represented various stakeholders including ministers, senior government officials, academicians, media persons and representatives of NGOs and the private sector.

It was generally agreed in these meetings, that a 'vision' represented a 'desirable future' – something like a cherished dream. It was neither a forecast nor a projection. In the course of the deliberations, two scenarios were considered for India Water Vision 2025: Business as Usual (BAU) and Sustainable Water World (SWW). While a vision was not to be constrained by present-day realities, it was considered important to quantify the implications of the Sustainable World Scenario in terms of food security, livelihood security, health security, ecological security and water resources development.

A number of vision elements were suggested during the course of the national and zonal consultations. Some of the key vision components include: availability of safe drinking water for all near their households so that women and girls do not spend much time in fetching water; perception of water used for meeting the basic needs of cooking, drinking and hygiene as a social good; equity in the use of drinking water; availability of food at affordable price for the poorest; minimum mortality and morbidity due to water- related diseases; optimum use of water as per agro-climatic conditions; existence of clean rivers and lakes and water bodies; minimum flows in rivers and minimal inter-state disputes; large dependence on rain water harvesting; minimal pollution from industries and agriculture; effective regional cooperation in sharing of water and energy resources; and effective governance and decentralized management.

The key drivers which influence the outcomes in the above two scenarios were identified and categorized into demographic, social, economic, technological and international / global. For developing scenarios, the following key drivers have been used: population growth; urbanization and the emergence of mega cities; economic growth; zero poverty level and import prices of foodgrains.

The vision elements and key drivers that have been identified are used to develop the two scenarios for 2025 mentioned above. For the Sustainable Water World Scenario, water demands have been estimated as a basis for ensuring (a) food security, (b) livelihood security, (c) health security and (d) ecological security. The total estimated demand for water (gross) for 2025 has been estimated at

1027 BCM. In order to meet these demands water availability will have to be increased from around 520 BCM in 1997 to more than 1000 BCM in 2025. This will necessitate an investment outlay estimated at Rs.5000 billion during the next twenty- five years or about Rs.200 billion per year.

Such massive investments in new projects should be planned within the framework of an integrated scheme for river basin development plan. These new projects would enable the transfer of water from surplus regions to deficit regions as well as its storage during water surplus periods so that it can be transferred to various regions during water shortage periods.

However, before such large projects (storage and diversion schemes) are planned and taken-up for execution detailed analysis of the various options for meeting sector- wise demands should be made. Such options should include, inter alia, the following:

- Reconsideration of life styles, development paradigm and attitudes to consumerism;
- Rainfall harvesting for improving soil-moisture content;
- Measures for optimum production of crop and its sustainability;
- Watershed development;
- Improving water-use efficiency through appropriate technology in irrigation, households and industry;
- Recycling and re-use of treated water.

Further, development of water resource projects would require explicit assessment of environment and social impacts (e.g. rehabilitation of project-affected people). In this context trade-off between development and environment should be directly addressed and appropriate decisions taken to harmonize the conflicting points of view and development philosophies.